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ten to eleven hours, traversing the ridge which forms the north boundary of the Glacier Blanc, at a height of 3308 mètres (10,853 feet), and descending precipitously to the Glacier d'Arsines. The views to the south and south-west of the Pelvoux, Alefroide, and Ecrins, and to the north-west of the Grande Ruine and Aiguille du Midi de la Grave (La Meije), are unsurpassed in sublimity and interest by any in the whole range of the Alps with which I am acquainted.

It is worthy of remark that in the case of each of the three passes just described, the névés of the Glaciers on the side of the Val Vallouise (the Glaciers Blanc and du Selé) are situated at an elevation of from 900 to 1500 feet above those of the reverse slope (the Glaciers de la Bonne Pierre, de la Pilatte, and d'Arcines)—a circumstance clearly attributable to the greater abruptness of the declivities of the latter, which prevents the accumulation of snow. I owe it to my guides, Michael Croz, of Chamouni, and Peter Perrin, of Zermatt, to state that my success was, in a large measure, due to their assistance; and I cannot conclude without a word in praise of the admirable efficiency of the knapsack sleeping-bag which constituted my almost habitual dormitory during my stay in Dauphiné. It was slightly modified in construction and material from a pattern kindly lent me by Mr. Galton, who imported the general idea from the Pyrenees.

Much yet remains to be accomplished in the way of exploration amongst the mountains of Dauphiné. I have done little more than introduce some sort of order into the confusion in which the district was previously involved, and shall be amply rewarded if I may be allowed to hope that I have contributed, in however slight a degree, to facilitate future research. Of the large number of lofty peaks enumerated in the hypsometrical table, none but the two highest summits of the Pelvoux and five or six others of inferior rank (used as stations by the officers of the *Etat Major*) have been ascended. A spirited assault was, indeed, made on the Ecrins by Messrs. Mathews and Bonney, a few weeks after my visit; but the state of the snow rendered it abortive, and the monarch of the group still remains as an incentive to the adventurous climber, whilst the Aiguille du Midi de la Grave (La Meije), the Alefroide, and a score of other lofty peaks, challenge attack.

6. *Latest Intelligence from Mr. BAKER in a Letter to J. ARROWSMITH, Esq., dated Khartum, 8th Nov., 1862.*

I LEAVE this on the 1st December with three vessels conveying my transport animals—four horses, four camels, ten mules, ten asses, with an escort of forty-five picked men all armed with double-barrelled guns and rifles, and about the same number of sailors. All my pack-saddles, leather-bags, &c., are so well arranged that I hope to have no trouble in rapid travelling. My animals are of various kinds for various work—thus, if the climate be unpropitious for some, it may nevertheless agree with the others. I have taken such care in preparing for the journey, to the minutest detail, that I trust to succeed.

Hitherto all attempts at an extended exploration beyond Gondokoro have broken down for want of means of transport, the expense of conveying animals from Khartum being very great. My expedition, as it sails from Khartum, will be able to disembark and march on the same day, if necessary. Thus I shall not lose a day upon the White Nile voyage, except at the junctions of the Sobat and the Gazal for observations. I shall push direct for Gondokoro, and from thence to the Cataract. At the last point I shall disembark, and order all the boats to return to Khartum, while I proceed on my land-journey.

My first point will be the ivory dépôt of one Andrea Debono, which is the

farthest spot yet reached, and is, I imagine, in about  $3^{\circ} 30'$  N. lat. From his men I hope to obtain some information of the adjacent country; but I shall push on, ever south, keeping as near the river as possible until, I trust, I may reach its source. This I hope to accomplish by the end of March. The rains commence at that time in Gondokoro; thus I have no time for delay as I *must* reach the Equator, if possible, before they begin. I shall there construct a zareeba or camp, secured by a stockade, as headquarters during the rainy season, from which, when weather permits, I may make a reconnaissance of the adjacent country until a return of the dry weather allows further progress. My first objects will then be the Lake Nyanza and traces of Captain Speke. Should I happily reach the Lake, I hope to return to Khartum by striking toward the east, and then, by a northerly course, to reach the head of the Sobat, in the Galla country; in which case I shall construct canoes and descend the river to Khartum. I take tools for this purpose, and also a German carpenter who has been many years in Africa, and who formerly accompanied the Austrian mission to Gondokoro.

Mr. Petherick's vessels and reinforcements are nearly ready, and, when loaded with supplies, they will accompany my boats to Gondokoro, forming a total of six vessels with about two hundred men. I shall hurry these up the river, and I trust I may find him and his party safely arrived at Gondokoro after the unpleasant journey during the last rainy season. He suffered great loss in stores destroyed by the rains and by the leakage of his boats. Further progress being impossible during the south wind, he returned all boats to Khartum, except one, and proceeded by land to Gondokoro, where he determined to await reinforcements.

I have advised the British Consul at Alexandria of the frightful state of affairs upon the White Nile caused by the slave-hunting expeditions of Khartum, in which unfortunately Europeans as well as natives are engaged. This slave-hunting is the cause of all my difficulties. Both Turks and Europeans of Khartum, with few exceptions, being in its favour, together with all Arabs, Syrians, &c., *without* exception, an Englishman is looked upon by this fraternity precisely in the point of view from which a magistrate is regarded by the swell-mob of London.

Mr. Petherick's journey up the White Nile happened to be at the season when other boats were returning; thus one of Andrea Debono's boats loaded with slaves, in charge of the nephew of this estimable British subject, fell directly into his hands. Of course he captured the slaver, and sent him to Cairo; but this has united all classes against him in Khartum, from the Governor down to the commonest White Nile cut-throat.

As Mr. Petherick is the only Englishman in the Soudan, with the exception of myself, the non-discriminating public of Africa conclude that I must have some connexion with him: thus I share in the odium which his capture of the Maltese has produced; and for a considerable period I could not obtain a single man, neither could Mr. Petherick's agent engage one for him.

By representations made by the Austrian Consul (Mons. Natterer), and also by me, to the Governor, he was almost forced to issue a proclamation against the slave-trade. This had the effect of frightening the men employed, and they immediately engaged themselves both to Petherick and to me as required.

The spirit of the Egyptian authorities is, however, openly manifested, as the Governor of Khartum (Moosa Pasha), instead of giving the assistance which my firman, sealed by Said Pasha, demands, assumes a totally passive attitude; and I must seek boats from private individuals, at great expense, as I am unable to obtain them from the Government without a responsibility which I decline to accept. I asked for one Government officer to take charge of the boats on the return voyage, without which the crew would assuredly

take to slave-hunting in my absence. This small demand was refused. Thus I must contract for boats to deliver me at the Cataract, the Government declining assistance in a most uncourteous manner. An application made by the British Consul at Alexandria shared the same fate, while French travellers receive assistance in Government troops and cavasses.

I shall, D. V., succeed in perfect independence. It is merely a question of pocket, patience, and perseverance—all of which I shall devote to the object in view. My watch I fortunately got repaired here, and I also purchased two others; my instruments are all in good order, and I possess Nautical Almanacs to the year 1864, inclusive: thus, with good health, and God for my guide through unknown parts, I trust, my dear Sir, to add my mite to geographical science.